

Press Release

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Energy savings – the missing link to EU competitiveness *Commission starts consultation on 2030 climate and energy policies*

Brussels, 27 March 2013 – The European Commission has overlooked the importance of an energy savings target in a green paper that launches a public consultation on a 2030 framework for climate and energy policy. The green paper instead focuses on a 'quick fix' approach that would fail to deliver the structural changes that the EU needs to boost competitiveness and manage spiking energy prices.

"We welcome the public consultation and hope it will show that stepping up energy efficiency with a binding energy savings target for 2030 must be at the heart of an integrated climate and energy policy that tackles Europe's competitiveness challenges", said Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings. "The European Commission is doing a disservice to the EU's long-term competitiveness in putting energy efficiency and savings on the back burner and focusing on traditional and short-term supply side options. A greenhouse gas target alone is simply not enough to put the EU on the path to a sustainable energy future".

Realising Europe's 2030 energy savings potentials could achieve €250 billion in annual net savings on the EU's energy bill¹, reduce trade deficits, create local and stable jobs and boost sustainable growth – in short, give the EU a desperately needed boost in productivity and global competitiveness in an economic context of austerity.

The green paper suggests that, given the recent adoption of the Energy Efficiency Directive, further action on energy savings should be postponed until review of the Directive in 2014.

The Coalition maintains that a 2030 energy savings target now would in fact support the implementation of the Directive and, by showing the way forward, complement the clear objectives for 2020 laid out in the legislation.

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Notes

The Coalition for Energy Savings brings together business, professional, local authorities and civil society associations. The Coalition's purpose is to make the case for a European energy policy that places a much greater, more meaningful emphasis on energy efficiency and savings. Coalition members represent more than 400 associations, 150 companies, 15 million supporters, more than 2 million employees, 1,000 cities and towns in 30 countries in Europe.

The current members of the Coalition are the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), Building Performance Institute Europe (BPIE), ClientEarth, Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe), COGEN Europe, E3G, Energy Cities, European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE), European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE), European Association of Polyurethane Insulation Manufacturers (PU Europe), European Climate Foundation, European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers (CECED), European Copper Institute, European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ec3), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), European Federation for Intelligent Energy Efficiency Services (EFIEES), European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW), European Insulation Manufacturers Association (Eurima), European Lamp Companies Federation (ELCF), European Federation of Public, Cooperative & Social Housing (CECODHAS Housing Europe), European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE), Friends of the Earth Europe, Glass for Europe, Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP), Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and WWF.

¹ Ecofys, "Saving energy – bringing down Europe's energy prices for 2020 and beyond", 2012.